

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the final Office Action dated January 12, 2007 and the Notice of Appeal filed July 12, 2007. In view of these amendment and remarks, this amendment should be entered, the application allowed, and the case passed to issue. No new matter or considerations are raised by this amendment. The amendment clearly places the application in condition for allowance, as the amendment cancels the rejected claims. Only allowed claims remain pending.

Claims 1-7 and 10 are pending in this application. Claims 1-7 and 10 were allowed. Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled in this response.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (US 2003/0015995) in view of Barrella (U.S. Pat. No. 4,871,956). This rejection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants greatly appreciate the indication that claims 1-7 and 10 are allowed. As only allowed claims 1-7 and 10 remain pending in this application, Applicants submit this application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this amendment should be entered, the application allowed, and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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